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OLC 78-2067/a

22 June 1978

Honorable Robert W. Kastenmeier
Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties,
and the Administration of Justice
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that your Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on 22 June on H.R. 7308, the "Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978," as amended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that this legislation has my full support.

I support the bill because I believe it strikes a fair balance between intelligence needs and privacy interests, both of which are vitally important. In my view the legislation will place the activities with which it deals on a solid and reliable legal footing and help to rebuild public confidence in the national intelligence collection effort and in the agencies of government principally engaged in that effort.

The procedures envisaged by H.R. 7308 will unquestionably involve some risks that sensitive intelligence information may be disclosed. But on balance, these risks are acceptable, and while compliance may involve some burdens, I cannot say that any proper or necessary governmental purposes will be frustrated by the bill or that vital intelligence information, having such value as to justify electronic surveillance as a method of collection, will be lost. For these reasons I strongly urge that this legislation be enacted as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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